the highest ryotwari rate of the taluk in which the estates are situated for the same class of land, be limited to the assessment at that rate."

Major Panchayats in the State.

* 1266 *Q.*—SRI K. ADIKESAVALU NAIDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state the number of major panchayats in the State whose income is (i) more than Rs. 75,000 and (ii) more than Rs. 1,00,000?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—"The number of panchayats, the income of each of which is more than rupees lakh per annum is seventeen while that of panchayats with an income exceeding Rs. 75,000, but not exceeding rupees one lakh, is twenty-one."

*Kondotti Producers-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Society, Malabar.*

* 1267 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation be pleased to state whether the Government have received a memorandum, dated 25th April 1953, from certain members of the Kondotti Producers-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Society, Malabar, touching the failure of the Registrar to take steps to hold elections to the Board of Directors of the Society; and, if so, what action has been taken?

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA:—"Yes, Sir. The memorandum was transferred to the Collector of Malabar for necessary action. The Collector has reported that three members of the Society whose nominations were rejected filed a Civil Suit in District Munsif's Court, Manjeri, and that the Court issued a permanent injunction restraining the Returning Officer from holding the elections. The suit stands posted to 7th August 1953."

Nellore Headquarters Hospital.

9-30 a.m. * 1268 *Q.*—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that, in Nellore Headquarters Hospital, a large percentage of in-patients including surgical cases are made to lie on the floor, and if so, what arrangements are made to provide additional accommodation and additional beds, to meet the growing demand for hospital treatment in Nellore; and

(*b*) whether the sanctioned strength of nursing staff on duty, and nursing orderlies on duty, employed in Government hospitals are dependent on the sanctioned bed strength of the hospitals concerned or whether it is dependent on the actual number of in-patients to be served; and the number of beds or the number of in-patients each nurse or each nursing orderly should while on duty attend to, for the State and for the Nellore Headquarters Hospital?

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (a) The sanctioned bed strength of the District Headquarters Hospital, Nellore, is 120. The in-patients admitted are in excess of this number. One hundred and forty-eight in-patients are provided with cots and the remaining patients have to lie down on the floor. The patients who cannot be provided with cots, are provided with mats, carpets, pillows and other bed linen. All important and major surgical cases are provided with cots. But only some of the minor and less important surgical cases are kept on the floor. Additional accommodation is necessary but in the present financial stringency, the Government are not in a position to find funds for costruction of buildings to meet the demand in this and other cases. The Government have, however, accepted the offers of two private gentlemen to construct a ward of 10 beds for children and a general ward of 12 beds respectively in the Headquarters Hospital, Nellore. After these two wards come into use, the bed strength will be increased.

" (b) The nursing staff and the nursing orderlies now employed in the Government Headquarters hospitals in the districts including the Headquarters Hospital, Nellore, are based on the sanctioned bed strength of the hospitals at the rate of one nurse for every 8 beds, and one nursing orderly for every 8 beds, as the actual number of in-patients admitted is always fluctuating."

Edayakkal bund in Karimba, Walluvanad taluk.

* 1269 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation that the bund at Edayakkal in Karimba amsam in Walluvanad, Malabar, is damaged and the ryots are not benefited to any extent by that bund; and

(b) whether it is a fact that water-cess is being collected from the agriculturists of that area even though they are not benefited?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" (a) & (b) The Government have not constructed any bund at Edayakkal, Walluvanad taluk, but a weir has been built by the Public Works Department in 1951 across the Machanthodu in the neighbourhood. It is presumed that the question refers to this weir.

" During 1952-53, the ryots concerned failed to fix the shutters on the anicut body wall at the proper time so as to conserve the flow in the stream, but no damage was caused thereby to the anicut body wall.

" No water cess has been so far collected from the ryots in the area.

" The Government have not received any representation on the subject."